

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FBCRUMP:MM

APPROVED BY AF/S:RTHAVERKAMP

AF/P:JPOPE

IO/UNP:JBAKER

AF:EWMULCAHY

IO:ROBLAKE

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O 032235Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 260107

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SF, UN, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON VORSTER STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS APPROVED GUIDANCE FOR HANDLING PRESS IN-
QUIRIES. THE FIRST QUESTION AND ANSWER HAS BEEN GIVEN
TO SEVERAL REPORTERS AND THE ENTIRE PAPER HAS BEEN PRO-
VIDED TO THE SA EMBASSY.

2. QUESTION. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S POSITION
ON MR. VORSTER'S REPLY TO CLARENCE MITCHELL'S STATEMENT
AT THE UN ON APARTHEID AND HIS CHALLENGE THAT THE DEPART-
MENT PRODUCE A SINGLE CASE OF DETENTION OF SOMEONE WHOSE
ONLY ACT IS OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE SYSTEM OF APAR-
THEID? ANSWER. THE DEPARTMENT STANDS ON THE STATEMENT
MADE BY MR. MITCHELL. THE PATTERN OF WIDESPREAD DETEN-
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TION OF PERSONS IN SOUTH AFRICA KNOWN FOR THEIR OPPOSI-

TION TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND APARTHEID SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. OPPOSITION TO THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID, WHETHER BY WORD OR BY DEED, CAN TAKE A VARIETY OF FORMS. THE TERRORISM ACT, FOR INSTANCE, MAKES IT A CRIME, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AFFAIRS OF STATE OR TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC CHANGE IN COOPERATION WITH ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY OR INSTITUTION. OBVIOUSLY, NUMEROUS SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE IN JAIL BECAUSE OF VIOLATION OF PASS

LAWS OR THE IMMORALITY ACT ARE THERE PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THEIR OPPOSITION TO OR VIOLATION OF APARTHEID LEGISLATION. WE HOLD TO THIS VIEW BUT WE DO NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN A POLEMIC WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF A GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH WE HAVE LONG-STANDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

3. QUESTION. WERE MR. MITCHELL'S REMARKS CLEARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE? WHO DRAFTED THEM? ANSWER. AS A MEMBER OF THE U. S. DELEGATION TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MR. MITCHELL WAS SPEAKING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF U. S. POLICY WITH REGARD TO APARTHEID WHICH HAS BEEN STATED AND RESTATED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. LIKE MOST SUCH STATEMENTS, IT WAS A PRODUCT OF CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND OUR MISSION IN NEW YORK, ALTHOUGH MR. MITCHELL ADDED SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS ON ANOTHER MATTER WHICH IS NOT AT ISSUE, IDENTIFYING THESE OBSERVATIONS AS HIS OWN. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, APARTHEID, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE260107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FBCRUMP:MM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750381-0711
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751183/aaaacwkr.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE ON VORSTER STATEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, SF, UN, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR J), (MITCHELL, CLARENCE)
To: PRETORIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006